

## Real Reasons to Repeal Common Core

1. Knowledge is infinite, dynamic, and cannot be quantified or measured on a test.  
Common Core's "wrong-headed" philosophy attempts to prescribe "**What**" students must learn, rather than teaching students "**How**" to learn. If students are to be truly prepared to compete in a 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy, they must *be* and *remain* motivated learners with the curiosity, critical thinking and creative skills to master rapidly changing informational content. Students need to develop a capacity to understand and invent new technologies and discern the truths and principles that support an ever evolving civilization. The best way to prepare students for JOBS is to equip them with the skills of lifelong learning, and the creative power to innovate and solve problems. If you want students to think for themselves, you teach them "**How**" to learn, not "**What**" to learn.
2. The uniform standards of Common Core have resulted in universal disappointment.  
Common Core standards were developed and delivered in a "top-down" federal vacuum without constituent input or field testing. Despite that, the experience with CC to date has demonstrated disappointing outcomes. Common Core protocols treat children as "widgets" to be manufactured according to exact specifications. Leading Psychologists, Professional Educators, and legions of Parents have deemed CC standards and testing to be developmentally inappropriate. The testing regimen is, frankly, not suitable for lab rats, let alone children. In fact, early CC test results in New York revealed disparate impact on Black, Hispanic, Non-English speakers and Disabled Students in particular. (Please note, testing is NOT teaching, and is highly over-rated as a measurement tool.)
3. Failure to properly pilot the program, coupled with rushed implementation has revealed:
  - a) Inadequate teacher training and resources
  - b) Overpowering teacher reporting and paperwork
  - c) Mandated computer based testing and concerns about "data mining" and labeling of students
  - d) Burdensome local implementation costs
  - e) Common Core Resource Kits and Textbook content widely viewed as inaccurate, age-inappropriate, and biased
  - f) Negative and concerning psychological impact on students
4. Common Core may violate the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the specific prohibitions detailed in 3 additional federal laws. The copyrights on CC are owned by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers and prohibit states from modifying more than 15% of the standards. States, school districts, teachers or parents are unable to modify 85% of the standards. Standards, tied to teacher evaluations, tied to tests, tied to graduation requirements and college admissions tests (ACT & SAT) virtually dictate a national, universal curriculum. How does that type of uniformity encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, diversity? What happened to state and local control of education? How did parents suddenly lose all control over their children's education?

5. There is bi-partisan opposition to Common Core.  
Two credible 2015 surveys from Gallup/Phi Delta Kappa and Education Next indicate growing disillusionment among Democrats (at least 25 percent are now firmly opposed to CC) and continuing opposition among Republicans surveyed.
6. Data mining in Common Core testing amounts to a massive invasion of minor children's privacy. According to Joy Pullman, an education research fellow at The Heartland Institute:  
*"...Tests are the key instrument of data collection. CC architect David Coleman confirmed that special-interests deliberately packaged data mining into Common Core...creates an enormous system of data classification for education...States using the national, federally funded CC tests have essentially turned over control of what data they collect on children to private organizations that are overseen by no elected officials. Those organizations have promised complete access to kids' data to the federal government."*
7. Common Core Mathematics standards are actually less rigorous than prior standards.  
Professor James Milgram of Stanford University has rejected the standards, which are suitable only for Community College entry level work. How can these standards develop students adequately for STEM fields of work?
8. English standards abandon 70% of classic literature in favor of informational texts.  
How could this approach encourage development of critical thinking skills, creative writing, and diverse cultural and literary appreciation?

A united constituency of citizens, parents, students, and education professionals have come together to explain to you, our Legislators, how Common Core threatens the future of our nation and its institutions, destroys our free and innovative system of education at its core, and harms our precious children. We rely on you to defend these vital interests. Are you listening?

Thank you for your patience and consideration.

Joellen Pisarczyk

(Former Teacher; Human Resources Manager; Corporate Trainer and Recruiter)

12477 Scenic View Ct.

Milford, MI 48380

[marvandjo@hotmail.com](mailto:marvandjo@hotmail.com)